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Minutes, Dec. 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for December 5, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, and Christopher Tonkin. Joey Glushko, Dan Butler, Parris Kellerman, and Doug Greenfield also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*The minutes of the November meeting were approved without amendment.

Updates of recent events, including Bike Night. Jack described a bicycle incident on the ride back from Bike Night near Arlington Center involving a car driver almost hitting a bicyclist. We discussed whether the driver should have been held responsible. Bike Night was a great success.

Feedback from Selectmen on bikeway safety issues, discussed at the Selectmen's meeting on November 28. Jack asked us how we thought we should follow up after the Selectmen's feedback. Joey suggested that we follow up with the Town Manager and offer to help if there are any issues. Jack also thought we should get someone from MassBike to tutor the Arlington Police about bike law. There is a CD training course but we were concerned that it wouldn't be effective. Jack will send a message to the Town Manager about implementing our ideas. Jack made the point that in order to enforce the law, the police have to know the law.

Update on the Mass. Ave. redesign project. There has been no progress since the last meeting. The design and comments are still with MassHighway. Scott mentioned that the project has been divided into the Center east and the Center west to Mill St. Jack suggested possibly eliminating the parking spaces in front of the Cambridge Savings Bank to facilitate the bikeway connection.

Reconfiguring Alewife Station intersection. Scott explained the current redesign of the intersection. The turning radius of the access road is being tightened to make more of a conventional intersection. Doug asked about the paving of the path to Belmont which would further complicate the intersection. Jack mentioned that there are no current plans to pave that stretch.

Update on bicycling to school issues. Lauren Hefferon has been very active; she is hoping to meet with the principal of the Hardy School. The principal of the Peirce School is interested (perhaps) in a pilot bicycling project. Parris told us that this principal is concerned about reducing traffic around his school and increasing the number of students walking to school.

Christopher told us that the Dallin School will be opening in January with a new principal whom we should contact. Dan told us that he works with Cycle Kids in Somerville and wants to begin teaching in Arlington. Jack suggested that he join our Bicycling to School subcommittee. Dan told us that Cycle Kids is half bicycling and half nutrition education. They are especially concerned about childhood obesity.

Discuss plans for ABAC's winter social scheduled for Thursday night February 16, 2006, Whittemore-Robbins House, Arlington Center. Andy Rubel is 97% confirmed, so our theme will be connections between bike paths and the road. Scott asked if he should make a short talk on the Mass. Ave. reconstruction. Doug suggested a talk (short) on the Bikes on the T program. Christopher suggested another possible speaker from Cycle Kids.

Open forum. Parris asked why bikes have been banned from the skateboard/BMX area in the new McClennen Park. We were surprised about this. Joey told us that bikes have indeed been banned because there is fear that bikes and skate boards don't mix well. Parris will look into this topic.

Joey suggested that the local racing community participate in Bike Week by assisting at crosswalks, etc., and increase the visibility of bicycling and racing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

*Designates a vote was taken.

The minutes were taken and submitted by Stephan Miller.